UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.3338

23 February 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND
THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 February 1994, at 11.30 a.m.

President:	Mr. OLHAYE	(Djibouti)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. CARDENAS
	Brazil	Mr. SARDENBERG
	China	Mr. LI Zhaoxing
	Czech Republic	Mr. KOVANDA
	France	Mr. MERIMEE
	New Zealand	Mr. BOHEMEN
	Nigeria	Mr. OTUYELU
	Oman	Mr. AL-KHUSSAIBY
	Pakistan	Mr. MARKER
	Russian Federation	Mr. VORONTSOV
	Rwanda	Mr. BIZIMANA
	Spain	Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir David HANNAY
	United States of America	Mr. INDERFURTH

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the Security Council.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

94-85203 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN MOZAMBIQUE (S/1994/89 and Add.1 and Add.2)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Mozambique, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Afonso (Mozambique) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), contained in documents S/1994/89 and Addenda 1 and 2.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1994/188, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

The first speaker is the representative of Mozambique, on whom I now call.

Mr. AFONSO (Mozambique): First of all, Sir, I wish to congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. We are confident that, with your well-known experience and excellent leadership qualities, you will guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion. I also wish to pay special tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic, for the excellent job he did during his presidency last month.

I also wish to seize this occasion to welcome most sincerely the new members of the Council: Argentina, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda. I pledge to them my delegation's full support and cooperation, and I look forward to working very closely with them in the months ahead.

Let me also avail myself of this opportunity to express my delegation's deepest gratitude for the excellent performance by the delegations of Cape Verde, Hungary, Japan, Morocco and Venezuela during their mandate and for their intensive work on the Council over the past two years.

I would like to reiterate my Government's deepest respect for our Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and for his continued efforts in the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security.

My delegation is happy to participate in this meeting of the Security Council, which was convened to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), as requested by resolution 882 (1993). On behalf of my Government, I would like to make a few comments regarding some issues identified in the Secretary-General's report, to which we attach great importance.

First of all, I wish to address the issue of the disengagement [illegible]UMOZ's military contingent from Mozambique. It is our belief

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

that the reduction of the military component should be undertaken in connection with developments in the demobilization of troops and in the training and coming into operation of the Mozambican Defence Force, the new army. In December 1992 my Government agreed with resolution 797 (1992), which requested the Secretary-General to seek economies through "phased deployment" and to report regularly in that regard. We recognize that since then significant and encouraging progress has been made in the implementation of major aspects of the General Peace Agreement.

Throughout this process, my Government has always been sensitive to the burden placed on the international community in assisting the Mozambican people to bring to an end the externally financed war which has ravaged our country for more than 16 years. We are conscious of the fact that the financial resources of our Organization are limited, if not already stretched beyond capacity. We therefore understand, and have accepted, the draft resolution before us today, particularly its operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 19. I assure the Council and the Secretary-General that my Government will fully cooperate in the implementation of the Council's decisions.

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

With regard to problems relating to the assembly and demobilization of troops, my Government has had the opportunity to explain time and again that the logistical and organizational difficulties we currently confront in no way affect the political will and good faith of the Mozambican Government to honour fully its obligations under the General Peace Agreement. As indicated in the relevant report (S/1994/89), during the initial period, Government troops, fully equipped, proceeded to the assembly areas in much larger numbers than the RENAMO forces and this continues to be the case. The organizational and logistical problems faced by my Government have led to a slowing down of the pace of the cantonment of Government troops, but the number of our assembled troops remains far larger than that of RENAMO's. According to the figures released by the ONUMOZ technical unit for demobilization, as of 21 February 1994 - two days ago - 26,768 Government troops had been checked into the assembly areas, as against 10,628 RENAMO combatants.

I would like to underline that the organizational and logistical problems faced by the Government in the assembly areas are similar to those faced in RENAMO's assembly areas, which are under the full responsibility of ONUMOZ. I wish in this respect to note that a tripartite mission - made up of representatives of the Government and RENAMO, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General himself, and representatives of the participants in the Monitoring and Supervisory Commission, namely France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) - visited 10 assembly areas in different parts of the country from 25 January to 5 February 1994 in order to take an in-depth look at the problems faced in those areas.

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

The tripartite mission noted in that regard that the problems related to logistical support and the provision of food and adequate conditions were common to the Government and ONUMOZ. The mission noted furthermore that RENAMO areas, which, as I have said, are fully under ONUMOZ responsibility, were in no better shape than those of Government troops. In a number of cases, the mission recognized that those areas were in fact in even worse condition than those of Government forces. It also noted that with regard, for instance, to accommodations, RENAMO tents in the assembly areas were much more poorly equipped than those of Government forces. In the event of rain, they are confronted with the problem of water leakage. Complaints about a lack of clothing and blankets were also made by RENAMO combatants.

In terms of food supplies, both Government and RENAMO assembly areas were confronted with serious shortages. Generally, the assembled personnel had only one meal daily. Supplies of fresh products were deficient in Government assembly areas and almost nonexistent in RENAMO areas. The supply of fresh water, particularly in RENAMO areas, constituted another problem yet to be solved.

As far as medical care was concerned, existing problems were similar in both Covernment and RENAMO assembly areas. Although each camp had a medical staff, some of the assembly areas had insufficient supplies of medicines. Diseases confronting one side were common to the other.

The tripartite mission also verified that another problem in the assembly areas was related to the inability of ONUMOZ military observers to register more than 50 combatants daily out of the thousands arriving in the assembly areas each day. This could

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

explain why, out of the combined total of 37,396 combatants who had checked into assembly areas as of 21 February 1994, more than 3,000 had yet to be duly registered by ONUMOZ.

Regrettably, the report of the Secretary-General under consideration today was finalized and published prior to the mission's findings and conclusions following its visit to the assembly areas. Those findings and conclusions would indeed have been helpful in providing valuable information and answers to a wide range of issues raised in the report. We therefore believe it would have been very useful had members of the Council been fully briefed and updated on these developments and on these logistical and organizational problems.

We fully agree that it is necessary to address these matters quickly and effectively. However, we would also like the members of the Council to understand that in the present circumstances these are normal problems associated with such a large operation. Assembly areas are just transit points; difficulties arising from them should not divide us in our common determination to implement fully the General Peace Agreement. There is no deliberate intention, at least on the Government side, to neglect the health and well-being of our troops and compatriots in the assembly areas.

Rather, the Council should appreciate that, despite the severe constraints, which do not permit us to do everything we would very much like to do in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, we continue to be fully committed and determined to achieve our objectives. It is for these reasons that we continue to appeal to the international community to assist us in the fulfilment of our responsibilities in order to provide the needed support for our troops in the assembly areas and training centres.

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

On the issue of arms collection, we would very much like to state that this is a matter of great concern to my Government. In fact, what happened was that in the initial phase of the cantonment of troops, while Government forces were handing over all their weapons in full compliance with the terms set forth by the Cease-fire Commission, RENAMO combatants were refusing to hand over their weapons to ONUMOZ military observers. Obviously, those actions, which were widely reported by the media, were in clear contravention of RENAMO's commitments under the Rome Agreement. Subsequently, once RENAMO's refusal had been denounced and condemned, RENAMO began to hand over to ONUMOZ completely obsolete weapons unsuitable for combat, and in some cases even traditional weapons.

As I speak today, many RENAMO combatants still report to the assembly areas without their weapons. Moreover, we have not been able to obtain any information whatsoever on the whereabouts of the remaining, and most threatening, category of medium- and heavy-calibre RENAMO weapons still unaccounted for.

A careful reading of paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Secretary-General's report can better illustrate these concerns. As indicated in these paragraphs, as of 24 January 1994, 9,895 Government soldiers had checked into assembly areas and handed over 11,382 weapons, while 6,714 RENAMO combatants had checked into assembly areas and handed over only 6,200 weapons. These concerns can be further highlighted by the most recent figures released by the ONUMOZ technical unit. According to these figures, as of 21 February 1994, 26,768 Government troops who had checked into assembly areas had handed over 27,183 weapons, while 10,628 RENAMO combatants had handed over only 8,656 weapons, representing less

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

than one weapon - in fact, a figure of 0.8 - for each RENAMO soldier who checked into assembly areas.

In addition to these concerns, it was also noted during the tripartite mission's visit, that, with the exception of the Chiramba assembly area, a significant portion of RENAMO personnel in the assembly areas was made up of aged people and teenagers averaging between 13 and 15 years old. In one of the assembly areas, Muchena, some 27 per cent of the assembled personnel are physically disabled and unable to perform basic military duties.

I hope that this issue will in future command the attention of this body. My Government is not talking only about numerical imbalances between the parties. The problem is much more serious than simple statistics or the proportions of numbers of troops assembled by both parties.

It is crystal clear to everyone that it was neither the old, obsolete weapons, nor the arms of small calibre, nor the aged and physically disabled people we see today in the assembly areas, that enabled RENAMO to sustain its war efforts for more than a decade of military operations.

It would therefore appear to us that the insistence on balance between the parties should be about quantitative and qualitative balance and not just arithmetical balance. My Government is assembling its soldiers - real soldiers with all their weapons. On the other hand, what we see on the other side is predominantly the cantonment of unarmed aged people, disabled people and children. In fact, this situation risks creating a situation of unilateral disarmament and demobilization of Government troops.

These are matters of concern to my Government. Given the well-known experience in similar cases, these facts provide us, indeed, with fundamental and genuine reasons to worry. They raise

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

questions as to the real intentions of the other party. We hope that the Council in particular, and the international community at large, will put pressure on RENAMO to assemble all its combatants and surrender all its weapons.

My Government is determined to continue faithfully and fully to abide by the commitments we have entered into under the General Peace Agreement. Our target has been, and will always remain, the deadlines agreed to in the revised timetable.

As to the dispute between the parties over control of the proposed locations for assembly areas in Salamanga, I should like to point out that on three different occasions the Supervision and Monitoring Commission, the highest body established to oversee the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, has determined that RENAMO violated the cease-fire and should therefore withdraw its forces from Salamanga to positions held prior to the cease-fire. After several months of violation of the decisions of the Supervision and Monitoring Commission, we are now informed that RENAMO has finally decided to pull out from Salamanga, but it opposed the presence of any representative of the Government in the Cease-fire Commission to witness its withdrawal, which is against the agreed procedures in the Cease-fire Commission. Furthermore, RENAMO declared that it considers this area to be terra nullius. It has also stated that its withdrawal from Salamanga represents recognition that there are two separate administrations in Mozambique. All these are, of course, unfounded arguments.

Together with these attitudes, we have been hearing in recent days pronouncements by the RENAMO leadership already anticipating that eventual loss in the general elections could be possible only under conditions of fraud and unfair elections. This is, to say

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

the least, disturbing. These threats take place at a time when all the institutional mechanisms necessary for the conduct of free and fair elections have been established and are fully operational.

As the Council will recall, the Government has done everything possible to accommodate RENAMO's concerns. As a result, RENAMO, as well as all other political parties, is fully represented in the National Elections Commission, where one of its seven representatives serves as a co-Vice-Chairman, and it is equally and adequately represented in the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration. Moreover, the whole electoral process will be duly supervised by ONUMOZ and other international observers, with the possibility of appealing to the Electoral Tribunal, made up of two national judges and three international judges, to be proposed by the Security Council and appointed by the Secretary-General.

In view of what I have said, it does not make any sense that at this stage one should start questioning the validity of a process which is intended to be as transparent, free and fair as possible, precisely to avoid any misunderstandings between the parties. It is my Government's hope that as we come closer to the electoral process, these pronouncements, which are far from constructive, will be taken seriously by the Council.

In this respect, I have been instructed further by my Government to inform the Council that the Supreme Court of Mozambique is ready to take action on the nomination of the two Mozambican judges to the Electoral Tribunal next March. We would appreciate it if the Security Council and the Secretary-General could initiate consultations and mechanisms for the early appointment of the international judges in order to allow the establishment, as soon as possible, of the Electoral Tribunal.

(Mr. Afonso, Mozambique)

My Government is aware that this is a very delicate phase in our nation's history. We therefore believe that it is high time that the Security Council carried out a serious review of how it can best strengthen its authority among the parties, especially with regard to denouncing and acting upon systematic violations of the commitments made under the General Peace Agreement and the understandings reached thereafter.

In this connection, we believe that it is very important that the parties be educated and urged to review their respective codes of conduct in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement. My Government will continue to work closely with the Council, the Secretary-General and ONUMOZ towards the attainment of these objectives.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Mozambique for his kind words addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. OTUYELU (Nigeria): My delegation would at the outset like to express its thanks to the Secretary-General for the very useful report on the current situation in Mozambique contained in documents S/1994/89 and Addenda 1 and 2. We wish to commend also the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Aldo Ajello, and all the personnel of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for their tireless efforts in seeking to carry out ONUMOZ's mandate under very difficult military and political

(Mr. Otuyelu, Nigeria)

circumstances. Our thanks also go to those Member States and non-governmental organizations actively involved in the tasks of assembling and demobilizing troops, training the prospective Mozambican Defence Force, and coping with Mozambique's humanitarian needs.

My Government is delighted that Mozambique, a country with which Nigeria has close fraternal and historic ties, stands out as one of the few countries where an international peace-keeping operation shows positive indications of coming to a relatively early and smooth conclusion. In this connection, we are glad to note the statement made by the representative of Mozambique and to note that the assembly and cantonment of both Government and RENAMO troops have begun in the designated assembly areas, despite certain logistical problems.

On the political side, we are also delighted that preparations for elections seem to be continuing on schedule, although that schedule is becoming tighter; we note with satisfaction also the approval of the Electoral Law by the Mozambican National Assembly on 9 December 1993. We also note with satisfaction this morning the efforts to appoint judges to the Electoral Tribunal. In addition, despite occasional incidents, it has been possible to maintain a general cease-fire in Mozambique.

We are, however, mindful of the great difficulties that still lie ahead in implementing the Mozambican peace process fully: quite a few assembly areas have yet to be opened up and the demobilization of troops, the transfer of weapons from assembly areas to regional warehouses and the dismantling of the country's paramilitary forces still have to be carried out. Most crucial, perhaps, is the outstanding task of establishing the well-organized and efficient Mozambican Defence Force that, in my delegation's

(Mr. Otuyelu, Nigeria)

view, is critical to both the short- and the long-term survival of a post-ONUMOZ Mozambique.

In the context of moving the peace process forward and strengthening the existing peace mechanisms, the Council will note the suggestions and the appeal made by the representative of Mozambique this morning. We believe, however, that the Secretary-General's current proposals for an ONUMOZ police contingent, contained in Addendum 2 to his current report, when fully and promptly implemented will be adequate to achieve the objective of maintaining peace.

The necessity of having a United Nations police force to monitor all police activities in the country and provide technical support for the National Police Affairs Commission established under the General Peace Agreement signed in Rome in October 1992 - which provides the real basis for our ongoing peace efforts in the country - cannot be overemphasized.

The draft resolution before the Council this morning represents a significant step forward in our collective effort to bring peace to Mozambique and to increase peace in the world. My delegation will support it, and wishes to commend it to members for unanimous adoption, essentially for three reasons.

First, the draft resolution urges both sides in Mozambique to continue to do all that is necessary to facilitate the full implementation of all the commitments they have entered into, especially those relating to the assembly of troops and the formation of a national defence force.

Secondly, while appreciating the important role of donors in ensuring the supply of humanitarian and relief services, the draft resolution recognizes the unassuaged humanitarian needs encountered in the present situation in the country and the need for increased

(Mr. Otuyelu, Nigeria)

international assistance. Reports on the humanitarian situation in Mozambique attest to the fact that the largest refugee repatriation in African history is now under way in that country. The international community faces the challenge of the massive resettlement of 1.5 million refugees and about 4 million Mozambicans who were internally displaced by war and by famine, which, we hope, will be tackled with generosity and determination by the international community.

Thirdly, and finally, the draft resolution underscores the time constraints with which we are presently faced in implementing the peace process in Mozambique. My delegation is of the view that the projected election date of October 1994 is not particularly far away, and so it is more important now than ever before that all hands are called on deck and that the parties, in particular, are nudged forward towards cooperation and towards fully playing their part with faith in this process.

In this connection, time is of the essence, and no effort should be spared to ensure the smooth completion of the peace process. The statement by the representative of Mozambique heightens our optimism in this regard.

Mr. BIZIMANA (Rwanda) (interpretation from French): The delegation of Rwanda examined with keen interest the excellent report of the Secretary-General dated 28 January 1994 and its two addenda. My delegation fully endorses its recommendations, particularly the recommendation that a civilian police component of the United Nations be created as an integral component of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

We strongly believe that the proposed decision to create this civilian police component will help promote trust between the parties. My delegation is happy that one of its principal missions will be to oversee, along with other elements of ONUMOZ, the smooth progress of the electoral campaign and to ensure respect for the political rights of individuals, groups and political groupings, in accordance with the General Peace Agreement.

We believe that, as the Secretary-General indicates in his report, the generally favourable development of the situation in Mozambique argues for continued support by the international community for the peace process that has begun there.

My country wishes to see Mozambique living in peace and resolutely embarking upon the road to progress, and so we note with particular satisfaction that within the framework of the implementation of the General Peace Agreement the parties are continuing to cooperate fully and to comply with the timetable drawn up by common consent, particularly regarding the cantonment of troops in the assembly areas.

We are pleased to note that in general the process is moving ahead positively, though there are certain delays here and there in the implementation of certain aspects of the General Peace Agreement, in particular regarding the dismantling of the militia and paramilitary forces, which should have begun at the same time as the cantonment.

(Mr. Bizimana, Rwanda)

Since it is important to respect the agreed timetable, my delegation would encourage the parties involved to try to eliminate the delays. We invite them to redouble their efforts to accelerate this operation, which is a crucial stage that should generate a climate of mutual trust that will contribute to the smooth progress of the scheduled elections.

We welcome the fact that the signatories of the Peace Agreement continue to maintain contacts at the highest level, with a view to making progress within the framework of the Agreement. We believe that this political will manifested by the two parties requires the support of the international community.

As the Secretary-General's report points out, Mozambique is going through one of the most significant periods of its history, since what is happening today will determine the immediate future of the country.

My delegation notes that the elections will take place in October 1994, and we hope that the international community will spare no effort to provide financial assistance, by contributing generously to the special fund to be created to support electoral activities in Mozambique.

We believe that for the peace process in Mozambique to be crowned with success, the disarmament operation and the return of those displaced from their homes by war, as well as the repatriation of refugees, must be effective. In this context, we encourage the parties to conclude the cantonment of troops in accordance with the revised timetable.

We believe that in order to guarantee peace and stability special attention should be given to programmes to reintegrate demobilized soldiers within civilian society. In this connection, my country urges the international community to contribute to the

(Mr. Bizimana, Rwanda)

financing of the programme to support the reintegration of demobilized troops, to be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations.

On another front, it is encouraging to note that the return of displaced persons and refugees has accelerated. A significant number of persons displaced by the war have returned home, while 621,000 refugees have left the camps set up in neighbouring countries and returned to their native regions. It is important to point out, however, that all these encouraging events could be brought to a halt by the humanitarian problem, which is far from having been resolved. We therefore believe that the international community must increase its support for the global programme for humanitarian aid to Mozambique, the updated version of which was made available in November of last year.

My delegation is aware of the financial constraints which the peace-keeping operations have encountered. Thus, while we subscribe to the approach to the reduction of the military element proposed by the Secretary-General in his report, we believe that such an operation should take place after the completion of the entire demobilization process, and that it should be progressive and not prejudice the effective realization of the mandate of ONUMOZ.

My country attaches great importance to the decision the Security Council is about to take to strengthen peace in Mozambique and to facilitate the smooth holding of elections through the deployment of a United Nations civil police force.

My delegation, wishing to see Mozambique enjoy peace and stability once more and deal with the after-effects of the war that plagued it for a number of years, will vote in favour of the draft resolution the Council is about to adopt.

Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) (interpretation from Chinese): With the help of the international community and through the efforts of the two Mozambican parties, a number of encouraging results have been achieved in the Mozambique peace process, among which I would like to mention in particular the many rounds of talks and the cooperation between President Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama, President of RENAMO, as well as the approval of the Electoral Law and the appointment of the National Elections Commission by the Mozambican National Assembly. Meanwhile, the paramilitary forces, the militia and the irregular troops in Mozambique have all started to demobilize, which undoubtedly will facilitate the general election.

The peace process in Mozambique is now at a crucial stage, and there is not much time left before the general election, which, according to the General Peace Agreement, is to be held in October this year. We sincerely hope that the two parties in Mozambique will continue to take practical and effective measures in cooperation with ONUMOZ, and to implement fully the General Peace Agreement and the relevant Security Council resolutions so as to ensure that the general election will be held on schedule.

At the same time, the international community, including the United Nations, should continue in every way possible to help the people of Mozambique to reach this goal so that Mozambique will be able to set out on the road of national reconstruction and economic recovery.

For the same purpose, the Secretary-General has recommended that more United Nations police monitors should be sent to Mozambique, which, in his view, will help achieve a smooth preparation for the general election and enhance the peace process. The Chinese delegation shares his view and will vote in favour of the draft resolution, which supports this recommendation.

(Mr. Li Zhaoxing, China)

The successful implementation of the General Peace Agreement depends, in the final analysis, on the Mozambican people themselves, and the key lies in a broadly-based national reconciliation. As long as there is political will, the existing difficulties can and should be removed.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) (interpretation from Spanish): The Security Council is preparing to adopt the draft resolution before us, which authorizes the establishment of a police component as an integral part of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

The Spanish delegation welcomes this step, which underscores the fact that the international community's commitment to the peace process in Mozambique continues to be solid, and reaffirms the hope that the international community has placed in the will of the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO to comply with the revised timetable in order to implement fully the General Peace Agreement which should lead to the holding of elections in October 1994.

(Mr. Yañez Barneuvo, Spain)

The Secretary-General's report of 28 January describes the progress that has been made by the parties, but says that there still remain serious problems regarding the implementation of the General Peace Agreement, referring specifically to the cantonment and demobilization of the ex-combatants and the establishment of the new Mozambique armed forces. It is essential that outstanding issues, including those related to the Government of Mozambique's providing adequate facilities and resources for the troops in the assembly areas and training centres, be resolved and that cantonment be accelerated in order to avoid any imbalance between the parties, which could have a negative impact on the process, with delays in the revised timetable.

My delegation is convinced that these difficulties can be overcome. We therefore welcome the recent news from the Secretariat, as well as the information provided today by the representative of Mozambique, about fresh efforts to improve the situation. We believe that the momentum initiated during the summer of 1993 between President Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama must not be allowed to diminish as we are now in the home stretch of this peace process. Today's draft resolution is in fact an appeal to the parties to comply with their commitments with resolve.

The establishment of a police component of 1,144 members of ONUMOZ, whose mandate and deployment are described in paragraphs 9 to 18 of Addendum 1 of the Secretary General's report, is encouraging for the people of Mozambique. It suggests a measure of developing confidence that will help pave the way to national reconciliation. The new component of the observer mission will have the important task, at the express request of the Government of Mozambique and of RENAMO, of monitoring all police activities in the country and ensuring respect for the fundamental rights and

(Mr. Yañez Barneuvo, Spain)

freedoms of the citizens, in particular during the electoral process. It should be emphasized that the maintenance of law and order continues to be the responsibility of the Government of Mozambique.

The primary purpose of the phased deployment of the police observers is to ensure the effective discharge of their mandate and to link it to compliance with the revised timetable of the General Peace Agreement. This also establishes flexible machinery to enable a gradual reduction of the military component, as the police component is being deployed and assumes its tasks, without any prejudice to the effective carrying out of the mandate of ONUMOZ.

The prospect of a gradual reduction of the military forces of ONUMOZ is proof that the peace process in Mozambique is safely on track, and that a good part of the observer mission's objectives is being fulfilled. It should be emphasized that in this new stage the presence of the police component is particularly necessary, to contribute to improving respect for law and order throughout the country and to ensure the necessary freedom and transparency for the smooth holding of the elections in October 1994.

Spain remains confident that the peace process in Mozambique contains the necessary elements to be viewed as a model throughout the African continent. As proof of this, my country actively participates in the United Nations observer mission in Mozambique and intends to contribute to the new tasks assigned it in the draft resolution, which we hope the Security Council is about to adopt unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1994/188.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Argentina, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Djibouti, France, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The PRESIDENT: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 898 (1994).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. LADSOUS (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation is pleased with the success achieved in implementing the peace process in Mozambique, particularly since the Secretary-General's visit to Maputo. We also pay tribute to the efforts made by the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Mozambique in ensuring the success of this Operation.

The French Government, which is firmly in favour of respecting the election date of October 1994, is concerned about the delays that have occurred in implementing the Rome Agreements, especially as concerns demobilization and the setting up of a national defence force.

My delegation voted in favor of the resolution, which establishes a police contingent of more than a thousand observers, as we consider that it has an essential role in preparing for the electoral process and in its successful progress. At the same time, France is pleased that, for reasons of economy, the Secretary-General envisages in parallel with the deployment of this important police force, a phased reduction of the military contingent, while maintaining the efficiency and credibility of the Operation. On this score my delegation awaits the concrete proposals of the Secretary-General in his next report.

(Mr. Ladsous, France)

France, which, as the Secretary-General was kind enough to mention in his report, is assisting in establishing the new Mozambican army and is contributing to the financing of the electoral process, agrees with the Secretary-General that the transformation of RENAMO into a true political party is one of the keys to the success of the peace process. It is therefore contributing to the fund created for this purpose.

Sir David HANNAY (United Kingdom): My delegation voted for the resolution, because it strongly supports the establishment of a United Nations police component as an integral part of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). It represents a welcome indication, as the Secretary-General explains in his report, that the situation on the ground allows for an increasing shift away from the monitoring of cease-fire arrangements and towards the verification of police activities in the run-up to the elections. Equally, it is important that the Secretary-General, as he has promised, present specific proposals to the Council for the phased reduction of the military component of ONUMOZ, starting at the earliest date consistent with not compromising the effective discharge of the Operation's mandate.

The peace process in Mozambique is now at a critical juncture. As the Secretary-General's excellent report of 28 January makes clear, there has been progress in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement in Mozambique, and we commend President Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama for their efforts in this regard. But we do remain extremely concerned at delays in some of the major aspects of the General Peace Agreement, in particular in the assembly and demobilization of forces. The imbalance between the two sides in the proportion of their forces now in the assembly areas, for example, needs to be rectified urgently. We are also concerned

(Sir David Hannay, United Kingdom)

about delays in establishing the new unified national defence force, which has a key role to play in promoting reconciliation between the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO and in providing security during the election period. It is essential that arrangements be made to provide the requisite numbers of troops and to rehabilitate the training camps.

These delays mean that the timetable for implementation of the General Peace Agreement is becoming increasingly tight. It is essential that elections take place on schedule in October this year, a point this Council has emphasized on a number of occasions in recent months and has done so once again in the resolution we have just adopted. If the elections do not take place in October there is a real risk that they may well be delayed until the end of the rainy season in May next year, which in turn could lead to the unravelling of the peace process.

ONUMOZ is one of the most costly United Nations peace-keeping operations in existence. When its mandate comes up for renewal at the beginning of May we shall need to consider the degree of progress made in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. If it transpires that the prospect of elections in October is becoming unrealistic, then it will be doubtful whether the operation can be maintained, certainly at its present level.

We therefore appeal to both President Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama to display the vision required and to issue the necessary instructions to their subordinates to avoid the process becoming bogged down in unnecessary wrangling. There is no advantage to either party in further delay. Mozambique needs stability in order to establish a firm basis for the economic and social rehabilitation which the country desperately needs.

(Sir David Hannay, United Kingdom)

The resolution just adopted also contains an appeal to the international community to provide the necessary financial assistance for the implementation of the General Peace Agreement and to contribute to the Trust Fund to be set up to support the efforts of the political parties. My delegation supports this appeal, and in particular the one for contributions to the Trust Fund, which was established on 10 May 1993.

In conclusion, I should like to pay tribute to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and to all the personnel of ONUMOZ for their efforts in support of the peace process.

Mr. INDERFURTH (United States of America): The United States is encouraged by the progress achieved in the Mozambican peace process since the Secretary-General's last report to the Security Council in November. We are pleased to see the initiation of troop cantonment in designated assembly areas, completion of training for the first elements of the new army, approval of an electoral law, and convening of the National Elections Commission. We congratulate both RENAMO and the Government of Mozambique.

We note, however, that problems and delays jeopardize the holding of elections in October. We are particularly concerned at the extremely slow pace of troop assembly and the failure to start actual demobilization. Formation of the new army is also lagging. The Security Council's resolution calls upon the parties to meet fully their commitments; this reflects the Council's determination that the October elections will be held as scheduled. We urge, moreover, that a specific date for elections be fixed soon.

The deployment of a sizeable police observer force to Mozambique will, we believe, promote achievement of the stable security environment necessary for free and fair elections.

(Mr. Inderfurth, United States)

Anticipating the attainment this year of the Operation's primary objectives, the Council has also requested the Secretary-General to prepare plans for the termination of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) and the withdrawal of all its personnel by the end of November.

It is important to take advantage of conditions on the ground that permit economies in the United Nations operation. My Government strongly supports the Council's decision that the police contingent be expanded in such a way that there will be no increase in the cost of ONUMOZ. We will be following up with our Embassy in Maputo. Our Ambassador will work closely with the United Nations peace-keeping mission, and my Mission and I will work closely here in New York to ensure that total costs do not increase.

As long as Mozambicans are fully and clearly committed to creating a more hopeful future for their country through the peace process, their efforts will have the support of the international community. The outcome will have profound implications, not only for the citizens of Mozambique, but throughout southern Africa. RENAMO and the Government should, in the short time remaining until renewal of the United Nations mandate is considered in April, exert every effort to return the peace process to its timetable.

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil): The resolution the Security Council has just adopted is the result of a careful and thorough review of the situation in Mozambique, of the implementation of the General Peace Agreement and of the role of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

Brazil continues to follow with great interest the evolution of the political process in that country. Brazilians are linked to Mozambique by common historical, cultural and ancestral ties. We maintain with Mozambique an especially intense relationship, which

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

is bound to grow even further once that sister country can finally proceed along the path of peace, stability, and economic and social development.

Our basic perception is that the overall situation in Mozambique is evolving favourably, but that strong support from the international community is still required at this decisive moment of the implementation of the General Peace Agreement. The number of positive developments described by the Secretary-General in his report (S/1994/89) dated 28 January 1994, for which we are indeed grateful, seem to reveal that peace is finally in sight. We particularly welcome the start of the assembly of troops and of the dismantling of paramilitary forces, militia and irregular troops, the enactment of the Electoral Law and the appointment of the National Elections Commission and of its chairperson.

Lingering problems and difficulties, which we do not fail to acknowledge, do not seem unsurmountable. In this connection, we pay special tribute to the vital role the President of Mozambique, His Excellency Mr. Joaquim Chissano, has been playing in the entire peace process. His wisdom and statesmanship have been crucial in overcoming political hurdles. We take this opportunity to strongly urge Mr. Dhlakama and RENAMO, the other party, to display the same political will and good faith in meeting the obligations to which they are committed under the General Peace Agreement.

In this connection, I wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, Ambassador Pedro Comissario Afonso, for the very detailed statement he made this morning. I was particularly struck by his reaffirmation of the commitments entered into by the Government of Mozambique under the General Peace Agreement, as well as by the frank and open description of the practical difficulties affecting the peace process. My delegation

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

believes that the Council should keep the new developments described in the information thus provided under constant and close scrutiny.

We supported the resolution just adopted, because through it the international community reiterates its commitment to help Mozambique in its quest to achieve a peaceful and lasting internal settlement. For ONUMOZ and other peace-keeping operations undertaken by the United Nations, this resolution underlines, inter alia, the need to continue to monitor expenditures carefully, a concept to which the Brazilian Government is firmly attached. But of far greater importance is the fact that the Security Council makes it clear that, whatever adjustments are to be introduced, the purposes of these operations can never be put in jeopardy.

The approved establishment of a police component as part of ONUMOZ is per se an important step forward. It reflects a significant improvement in the situation of Mozambique. We fully concur with the Secretary-General's assessment that it will be beneficial to keep much of the present United Nations-formed units in Mozambique until elections are held. The Brazilian Government also shares the view of the Secretary-General that while the demobilization of troops is still proceeding it would not be advisable to reduce the ONUMOZ military component significantly.

My delegation is not persuaded that a withdrawal of military troops should occur merely to offset cost increases generated by the deployment of the police contingent. First and foremost, we believe that police and military troops are not interchangeable. My Government is committed to preventing any disruption of the important and complex responsibilities attributed to the military component of ONUMOZ as long as potential problems or difficulties exist.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

A premature withdrawal of troops could put at risk the ultimate goal of peace and stability in Mozambique, for it would be likely to create far greater difficulties than any savings generated from military cutbacks. We believe that the Council is not compelled to act on the basis of avoiding cost increments without duly taking into account prevailing circumstances facing ONUMOZ. The Council, in our view, should not be lured by apparently appealing savings which in the long run may be self-defeating.

Paragraph 3 of the resolution we have just adopted is very clearly worded. The Council is requesting the Secretary-General to present proposals for adjustments in the composition of ONUMOZ. Those proposals, however, are not to be made without due consideration of the political and military situation in Mozambique. Ensuring that there is no increase in the cost of ONUMOZ is a goal, whereas the effective discharge of the ONUMOZ mandate is a definite directive to guide the proposals to be presented to the Council.

According to paragraph 13 of resolution 882 (1993), the next report of the Secretary-General will be due by 30 April. There are three target dates to be retained in terms of the time-frame of the peace process. The most important is October-November this year, when it is expected that elections will be held and that the newly elected Government will assume office. The other two are May, when demobilization is to be completed, and September, when the new national defence force is expected to become operational.

My Government is confident that in Mozambique we are indeed close to a much needed success story for United Nations peace-keeping efforts. The Council should, however, continue

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

monitoring the situation in order to be able to prevent any possible procrastination in the peace process.

We all realize that peace has its costs. Nevertheless, the absence of peace is costlier. Let us think of how peace will alleviate the human suffering that the people of Mozambique has been undergoing for so many years. Let us think of what peace and stability will do for Mozambique and for that entire important subregion of Africa.

Mr. CARDENAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The resolution the Security Council has just adopted - with my delegation voting in favour - authorizing the establishment of a police component as an integral part of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), emphasizes the United Nations commitment to Mozambique.

The Secretary-General's comprehensive report shows that there has been substantial progress in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement. While we appreciate what the parties have done to bring about that progress, we continue to be concerned over repeated delays in the process, especially as regards the cantonment, disarming and demobilization of troops, and the creation of a new national defence force. We are also gravely concerned over the difficulties and complexities of disbanding the militia and the paramilitary forces that are scattered throughout the country.

We urge the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO to comply with all the provisions of the General Peace Agreement without further delay. We remind them that the ultimate responsibility for the success of the process lies with the people of Mozambique. The international community is prepared to continue to help the people of Mozambique in its efforts, but it must be clear that such

(Mr. Cardenas, Argentina)

assistance, including that of ONUMOZ, cannot replace a negotiated solution to the conflict, which is indispensable.

With regard to the Organization's current financial difficulties in the area of peace-keeping operations, the parties must be more than ever aware of the need to respect the timetable with a view to holding elections next October.

Finally, we urge the international community to continue supporting the full implementation of the General Peace Agreement, thus bringing about political normalization in Mozambique.

Mr. LOZINSKIY (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): The Russian Federation supported the resolution just adopted, which, inter alia, authorizes the establishment of a police component as an additional part of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), because it sends a clear signal to the parties in Mozambique concerning the need to accelerate the peace process and because it moves them in the direction of free and fair elections to be held before the end of October 1994.

The resolution shows that the Council considers it important that, as far as possible, the deployment of the police contingent and the drawdown of the appropriate number of military personnel should go hand in hand, ensuring stability in Mozambique, and that this should result in no increase in the overall cost of ONUMOZ.

We consider that the decision to deploy a police contingent will make it possible to strengthen trust among the parties and to create propitious conditions for successful elections. At the same time, it is clear that much remains to be done to implement the General Peace Agreement. In that context, we consider it of particular importance that both parties scrupulously and promptly implement the provisions of the Agreement and respect in good faith the revised timetable for the disarmament and demobilization

(Mr. Lozinskiy, Russian Federation)

process, for the establishment of a national defence force and for preparations for the pre-election campaign to enable the elections to be held in a truly democratic and civilized way.

We hope that both parties in Mozambique will make effective use of the possibilities afforded them by the international community and will make every effort to complete successfully the political-settlement process with a view to ensuring peace, stability and the rebirth of the country.

Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic): The Czech delegation voted in favour of today's resolution because it reflects well our views on the developments ir Mozambique. The Czech Republic and Mozambique have a long tradition of friendly relations; in fact, even as we speak, Czech military observers are participating in the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). We are therefore particularly happy to have what we consider a good, well-balanced resolution.

It is appropriate at this point to express our appreciation for the Secretary-General's report and for all the effort that went into it. One cannot, however, ignore the important points made by my colleague the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, and we will want to analyze them very carefully. We will also want to reflect on whether the work of the Council could have been further improved had we had some of that information at our disposal earlier.

The fact that it took us some two weeks of work to finalize the text of the resolution indicates that the situation is being closely watched by the international community, and that it is perceived as controversial. Most troublesome, in our opinion, is

(Mr. Kovanda, Czech Republic)

the backsliding in the originally envisaged schedule for the peace process - backsliding which now amounts to just about an entire year.

The adoption of the Electoral Law; the first steps in disarmament and demobilization and the subsequent improvement in the security and political situation of the country; the process of transforming RENAMO into a political party; and, in particular, the continuing dialogue between RENAMO and the Government: all these amount to hopeful signs that the Mozambique peace process might successfully culminate in democratic elections this coming October. We eagerly anticipate the setting of a specific date for these elections.

Progress in fulfilling the General Peace Agreement opens up an opportunity for a phased drawdown in the military component of ONUMOZ, with some possible reduction of costs - without prejudice, however, to the effective discharge of the ONUMOZ mandate. In our opinion, the emplacement of police observers and units will sufficiently guarantee that the peace process continues.

We cannot fail, however, to express our concern over the slow progress in demobilization, even though we recognize some acceleration in the past couple of weeks. We are also concerned by delays in creating and training a new national defence force, which in turn might jeopardize the timing of the elections, not to speak of increasing the cost of the Operation.

It bears reiterating that the United Nations stands ready to help those who will help themselves. In fact, it can hardly help anyone else. Only when the people of a country and their political leaders are prepared to assume the primary responsibility for their own future can the United Nations be of any use. We are delighted that, for Mozambique, today's resolution makes this point as well,

(Mr. Kovanda, Czech Republic)

and we trust that, despite the obstacles and difficulties, developments in Mozambique will fulfil the promise of turning this process into a success story.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Djibouti.

My delegation welcomes the latest report of the Secretary-General regarding the situation in Mozambique for its detail and comprehensiveness and for the manner in which it conveys an excellent feel for the import of developments. Much of this is reflected in the resolution just adopted, which my delegation fully supported.

To a considerable extent, there are things to be pleased with in the current situation as reflected in the report. The general restraint of both parties, as evidenced by the absence of serious cease-fire violations, and their initiative to fill the void, prior to United Nations deployment, with their own programme of joint monitoring of police activities and the observance of respect for civil rights, are commendable. We are also encouraged by the many meetings between President Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama in Maputo, where Mr. Dhlakama has transferred his residence to facilitate this process.

However, while there is a fortunate window of opportunity for Mozambique to put its house in order, this situation is unlikely to continue indefinitely. It is therefore imperative that we move with consummate speed to realize those activities and meet those deadlines necessary to utilize this period. To meet the timetables set for the installation of a government duly elected by the people under the recently approved election law, a number of things remain to be done in an expeditious and timely manner. Electoral registration and other electoral preparations must commence

(The President)

immediately, and an election date must be set. The resolution states a desire to see an elected government by October this year, which is really very close.

Additionally, the whole election process needs to take place in an atmosphere of balanced, actual demobilization, enhanced disarmament, evidenced by the surrender of weapons and their transfer to designated depots, and the formation of a suitable national defence. Although there has been a spirit of cooperation, the display of transparency, cooperation and action must be sustained and augmented if we are to resolve these problems effectively.

We are pleased by the desire of all parties in Mozambique for a continued United Nations presence, and are especially encouraged by the fact that this desire, coupled with the virtual cessation of armed hostilities, will allow the United Nations to play a classic peace-keeping role. The anticipated phased reduction of the military component of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) and the creation of a police component bear careful planning and consideration. The observation, monitoring, reporting and technical-assistance duties of the United Nations in the coming elections, in conjunction with the police component authorized by the resolution, would permit the United Nations to provide very useful input in the reconciliation process.

My delegation still has some concern over issues also noted in the resolution and in the Secretary-General's report. There can be little question that the response of the international community to the targeted needs of Mozambique has been commendable. Still, we can only hope this demonstration of good will will not slacken as we approach the final chapter of our involvement. The economic and financial impact of an attractive new army, of the rehabilitation

(The President)

and return of refugees and demobilized militia, of demining and of the conversion of RENAMO into a political entity or party would all more than overwhelm the economic resources of the Government.

We therefore hope that international contributions will continue, for the end result will be far less expensive to us than a breakdown in progress. We wholeheartedly agree with the resolution's call in this regard for the Secretary-General to be mindful of the level of expenditures and the not unlimited resources of the United Nations. However, this may well call for a judicious balance between short-term costs and savings and long-term total costs, a situation which returned to haunt the United Nations in Angola.

Finally, my delegation is also pleased at the way in which humanitarian assistance has been able to reach parties in need, and urges its facilitation by all parties for unimpeded access to civilians.

We are all locked in a crucial dash to the finish with the people of Mozambique. We believe everyone realizes that serious and continued displays of genuine good will and effort will be reciprocated, and that is the experience we all need. The General Peace Agreement provides the framework needed to set Mozambique back on its feet in a timely manner, with the compliance and support of both parties. But there is a clear need for an accelerated pace of action and results.

In this context, my delegation is deeply appreciative of the extensive information provided to the Council ths morning by the representative of Mozambique. We are indeed thankful to him, and we shall seriously ponder over its ramifications.

(The President)

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no further speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.